



Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson
Way
Viera, FL 32940

Consent

F.4.

5/6/2025

Subject:

Approval to submit grant application and execute associated agreement, modifications, and amendments upon award of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Florida Boating Improvement Program Grant for Brevard County Natural Resources Management Department Boating and Waterways' Boating Study.

Fiscal Impact:

FWC Florida Boating Improvement Program Grant revenue of \$167,782 with \$25,000 match from Brevard County Natural Resources Management Department funds (0004-215260, Permitting Fees).

Dept/Office:

Natural Resources Management Department

Requested Action:

It is requested that the Board of County Commissioners 1) Approve the Natural Resources Management Department to apply for the FWC Florida Boating Improvement Program Grant, 2) Authorize the County Manager to execute the grant agreement, future grant amendments, and modifications, if the grant is awarded by FWC, upon review and approval by the County Attorney's Office, Risk Management, and Purchasing Services, and 3) Authorize the County Manager to approve all associated budget change requests.

Summary Explanation and Background:

With over 36,000 registered vessels, Brevard County ranks high among Florida's top boating locations. A boating study was previously conducted in 2007. Since the last assessment, significant demographic and infrastructure changes have occurred throughout the county. Therefore, an updated assessment is essential to accurately reflect the current conditions and requirements to support the County's efforts in planning for boater facilities. This study will identify boating activity patterns and facility availability, as well as analyze boating access; boating activity and movement; and boat ramp and marina usage patterns. Pertinent data will be obtained to assist with future infrastructure planning and policy decisions to preserve and potentially enhance boating access to Brevard County's waterways. If approved, the grant funding, along with the contributing funds from Brevard County Natural Resources, would cover the costs for the boating study, which includes boating aerial surveys, data compilation, analysis, and the production of a final report.

Clerk to the Board Instructions:

N/A



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May 7, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Virginia Barker, Natural Resources Management Director

RE: Item F.4., Approval to Submit Grant Applications and Execute Associated Agreement, Modifications, and Amendments upon Award of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Florida Boating Improvement Program Grant for Brevard County Natural Resources Management Department Boating and Waterways' Boating Study

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on May 6, 2025, authorized you to apply for the FWC Florida Boating Improvement Program Grant; authorized the County Manager to execute the Grant Agreement, future grant amendments, and modifications, if the grant is awarded by FWC, for Natural Resources Management Department Boating and Waterways' Boating Study, upon review and approval by the County Attorney's Office, Risk Management, and Purchasing Services; and authorized the County Manager to approve all associated Budget Change Requests.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK

Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board

cc: County Attorney
County Manager
Finance
Budget

AO 75 Grant Proposal Pre-Application Assessment Form

IV. Application (Pre-Award)

Department: Natural Resources

Grant Title: Brevard County Boating Study

Funding Agency: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

General Project Summary: A new study to update the previous 2007 Boating Study which will focus on vessel owner characteristics, boating usage patterns, and the availability of boating facilities. The County will collaborate with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and other key stakeholders to analyze boating in Brevard County, its relationship with manatee distribution and coincidence, and the Manatee Protection Plan. The updated information will guide potential policy changes that support sustainable boating practices while ensuring manatee conservation.

Please review the pre-application assessment questions on Page 2. In accordance with AO 75 (Section V.B), approval to submit a grant application shall be presented to the County Manager, only after obtaining signatures from:

Department Director/Deputy Director

Name (print): Amanda Elmore

Signature: Amanda Elmore

Date: 3/25/25

Central Services

Name (print): Kathy Wall

Signature: Kathy Wall

Date: 3/25/25

County Attorney's Office

Name (print): Heather Balscr

Signature: Heather Balscr

Date: 4-1-2025

AO 75 Grant Proposal Pre-Application Assessment

IV. Application (Pre-Award)

1. Does the grant opportunity align with the County's goals and objectives and the strategic priorities of the Department/Office?

Yes, an update to the 2007 Brevard County Boating Study is necessary to address the significant changes in the county's demographics, boating activity, and facility availability since the original study. The project aims to assess the current state of boating facilities, their usage, and the needs of boaters to ensure adequate access. The grant will fund the boating access, facilities, and usage patterns portion of the study. The County will collaborate with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and other key stakeholders to analyze boating in Brevard County, its relationship with manatee distribution and coincidence, and Brevard County's Manatee Protection Plan. This will also inform decisions about the future of Brevard's Manatee Protection Plan (MPP) and ensure that both boating access and manatee conservation efforts are balanced.

2. Does the Department/Office have the capacity to administer the programmatic and administrative aspects of the grant?

Yes, the Natural Resources Management Department's Boating & Waterways Program staff does have the capacity to administer the programmatic and administrative aspects of the grant.

3. Does the grant require the County to provide matching funds?

No match is required.

4. What is the cost that will be incurred by the Department/Office as a result of implementing the grant that may not be recouped in the grant award?

The time spent by existing Boating & Waterways Program staff for project management and oversight will not be recouped in the grant award.

5. What are the staffing requirements?

The project will be managed by the existing Boating & Waterways Program staff

6. Can the Department/Office provide a clear continuation plan if required? It is required that Departments/Offices develop continuation plans (plans for sustaining grant-funded programs if funding is reduced or terminated) prior to applying for grants.

This is a one-time project that will update the 2007 Brevard County Boating Study. This project is stand-alone and requires no maintenance or continuation plan.